

The Dominie

There was a tremendous expansion in education during Queen Victoria's reign and, by the 1890's, elementary schooling was available all over Britain to children from even the poorest families. Scotland with its traditional respect for learning, was developing its own education system, which even today differs from that in England and Wales. The schoolmaster, or dominie,



was a respected figure in the community and held in some awe by truant-playing pupils in particular. His ultimate symbol of authority was the taws, or strap, with which he would administer corporal punishment. Or he might exact an even worse penance and force the culprit to stay behind writing lines!

The Smiddy

With the horseless carriage still a rare novelty, the blacksmith was in great demand, both for shoeing horses and for making or mending iron implements. He was a vital part of any community — without his skills, work and travel would grind to a halt. At *As We Were* we have recreated a typical smiddy, equipped with authentic anvil, bellows and tools of the trade. You can almost feel the heat from the forge!



ADMISSION:

ADULTS	£1.50
CHILDREN (over 5 yrs)	£1.00

Antiques and Collectables



Proprietors Roger and Lyn Hampshire have been running a retail antiques business from Rutherford Hall for several years. The exhibition, *As We Were*, has been developed as a natural extension of this business, and a good quarter of the 1,000 sq. ft. showroom is still a sales area for antique furniture and collectables. In fact, if you see something you'd like in one of the displays, there's a good chance you'll find a similar item for sale in the retail section. A selection of inexpensive souvenir items is also available.

How to get there

Until early 1986 the A75 Euro-route used to run the length of the town. Now Gatehouse of Fleet — “always the jewel of South West Scotland” — has been bypassed and is safer, quieter and cleaner without the throughput of heavy traffic. The town is about 27 miles westward of Dumfries. Simply take the A75 Dumfries to Stranraer road and follow the signposts to Gatehouse of Fleet. Rutherford Hall is on the main street, opposite the public car park. You can't miss it — it is the old towered church beside the river and next to the Fleet Bridge.

Access:

The indoor exhibition at *As We Were* is wheelchair friendly. Its entrance is level with the forecourt and there are wide aisles between the tableaux. There are some outdoor exhibits in the garden, but due to the nature of the site which slopes down to the river, these are not readily accessible to wheelchairs.

No Smoking: For safety reasons, no smoking is allowed inside the exhibition/showroom.

*Scotland's Surprising South-West
Has Something Special
In Store For You!*

THE HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

“AS WE WERE”

is on view at

RUTHERFORD HALL

(The former Free Church of Scotland)

GATEHOUSE OF FLEET



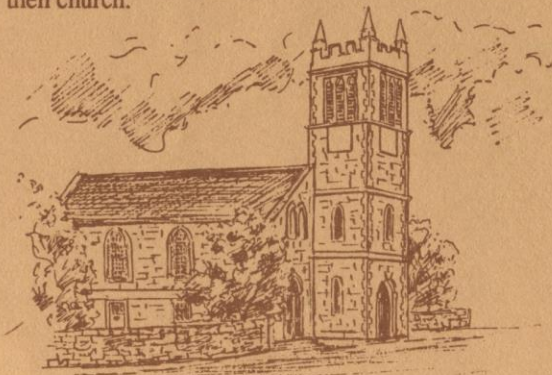
*“As We Were” is
your chance to see
what everyday life
was like in Galloway*

*when our great-great grandparents were
young. A series of realistic tableaux shows
how people worked, played and went about
their business 100 years ago.*

Rutherford Hall

Built beside the bridge over the River Fleet, next to what was then the Turnpike road, the former Free Church of Girthon and Anwoth stands testament to a traumatic period in the turbulent history of the Reformed Church north of the Border. May 18, 1843 was the day on which 470 ministers signed away their rights to the material benefits of being part of the Established Church and formed the Free Protesting Church of Scotland. The event became known as the Disruption.

Among those protesting clergy was the Rev. Robert Jeffrey, minister of Girthon and Anwoth Parish, Gatehouse of Fleet. He left the Established Church with 223 communicants, and, although failing in health, devoted his energies to keeping his flock together. Those who followed him met for worship in the Freemasons' Hall (now the Masonic Arms, Ann Street), while the kirk session set about finding a site on which to build their church.



Certain local people were bitter about the Disruption and the Free Church adherents met with opposition each time a site was put forward. It took ten months for a site to be finally settled, but, sadly, Robert Jeffrey was never to see the church built. He died within hours of being told the good news. The church was opened for worship on December 13, 1844, and its story is told in *As We Were*, the historical exhibition within its walls.

Life in the Olden Days

If you've ever had Monday morning blues, spare a thought for the hard-working housewife of 100 years ago. No automatic washing machine for her! She had to fill the cast-iron boiler with buckets of water from the pump, light the fire underneath it to heat water and, when they had boiled long enough, haul out the soaking clothes into a tub for rinsing. And her version of a spin drier was a heavy mangle that had to be laboriously operated by hand. See how she coped at *As We Were*.



Convenience food was still a long way in the future in late Victorian times, and cookery took up a lot of time. There were plenty of specialised utensils and culinary gadgets, such as patent mincers, were catching on fast. The cast-iron kitchen range had replaced the open hearth for cooking — but it still had to be lit early each morning and it still had to be black leaded and polished to keep it in good condition. Our kitchen tableau with its collection of antique utensils is another of the fascinating displays at *As We Were*.



Of course, life wasn't all work and worship in the old days. There was still time to take a few drams at the local, have a crack with your cronies and maybe play a few rounds of dominoes. Savour the atmosphere of a Scottish country inn when you visit *As We Were*.



Visiting

Calling on family and friends was as important then as now — maybe even more so, you couldn't just pick up a telephone to find out how they were doing. Another tableau at *As We Were* shows an elegant lady visiting her sister and her newborn baby. The bedroom is furnished with genuine antiques and has authentic Victorian decor.



Details of party bookings and general information from:— *AS WE WERE*, Rutherford Hall, High Street, Gatehouse of Fleet, Galloway DG7 2HS. Telephone/Fax: 0557 814799.